

SERMON NOTES

Work Is Worship Part 2

Introduction

Your work is worship recap

1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV:

31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Colossians 3:22-24 NKJV

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

A. Jesus' Parable about this:

Luke 19:11-27 (NKJV)

11 Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.

12 Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.

13 "So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'

14 "But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this [man] to reign over us.'

15 "And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

16 "Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.'

17 "And he said to him, 'Well [done,] good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'

18 "And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.'

19 "Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'

20 "Then another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief.

21 'For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.'

22 "And he said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, [you] wicked servant. You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow.

- 23 'Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?'
- 24 "And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give [it] to him who has ten minas.'
- 25 ("But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.')
- 26 'For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.
- 27 'But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay [them] before me.'"

B. Compare the parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30

Similarities:

- The King goes away and expects His servants to use His money and multiply it for Him.
- There is one who does not use what he has been given through ignorance and fear and comparison with others.

Differences:

- The amounts are different: a "Talent" was worth 20 years' wages, while a "Mina" was worth 3 months' wages.
- In the Talents parable, they are given different amounts, but in the Minas parable, they all get the same.
- In the Talents parable, there are none who reject the king, only one who proves he rejects the king by hiding his talent, but in the Minas parable, there are many who reject the king, and they are not counted as His "servants".
- In the Talents parable, the one who hides his money is condemned to eternity away from God, but in the Minas parable, only those who rejected the king are condemned, not the one who does not use his Mina.

C. How To "do Business" - be aware that you are a steward, - multiply, use, Invest

D. What Has He Given You? "WORKTIME"

- **Words** - His word is precious. Also, what has He said to **you** in His Bible and in your heart? Are you sharing and valuing it?
- **Opportunities** - opportunities to serve Him exist all around us if we are looking.
- **Relationships** - these exist to reach out for God.
- **Kingdom Authority** - Lk 10:1-20. He has given you authority.
- **Talents** - and abilities. Yours are unique. Don't try to copy others.
- **Interests** - God gives you His passions to use for Him.

Philippians 2:13 NLT

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

- **Money** - the value and measure of your effort and passion at work.

- Experiences - what has happened in your life? These can be used for Him.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NKJV

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

E. A Word On Tithes

Laws in OT vs NT righteousness

1. The New Testament demonstrations of righteousness **exceed** the Old Testament rules. Egs. Murder, loving your neighbour, the Sabbath (Mat 5:21-22, Luke 10:29-37, Heb 4:1-10)
2. New Testament power comes from within your heart by God's Spirit, instead of trying to obey external rules by self effort.

Philippians 2:13 NLT:

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

3. The curse is entirely removed now. Compare Deut 28:15-68 with Galatians 3:13-14.

NT examples

- Zaccheus

Luke 19:8-9 NKJV:

8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;

- Early Church

Act 2:45 NKJV:

And sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

- Macedonians

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 NKJV:

1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:
2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.

3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,
4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

- Later Church

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 NKJV:

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

2 On the first [day] of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.